



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Wildlife Enhancement Activity - Wildlife Friendly Haying Management

Providing Wildlife Friendly Haying Management:

Haying intensity and timing, especially during the primary nesting and fawning season, can cause tremendous mortality losses to both ground nesting birds and wildlife.

Benefits:

Targeted conservation measures are implemented to grassland wildlife habitat in pastureland, hayland and rangeland to provide a variety of habitat conditions in patches to maximize wildlife use. These measures include employment of timed haying to avoid periods when upland wildlife are nesting or fawning, idling paddocks or pastures and idling hayland during the nesting or fawning period, leaving a residual forage height conducive to wildlife nesting and fawning for the following year, prescribed burning, interseeding of native legumes and forbs or conversion of exotic pasture/hayland plantings to a mixture of species which meets the life history needs of the targeted grassland wildlife species.

Criteria for Wildlife Friendly Haying Management:

The producer will apply and maintain management actions specifically for improving or protecting grassland functions for the targeted wildlife species.

1. Time haying outside of the primary nesting or fawning seasons for the targeted species.
2. Idled acres will not be disturbed during the primary nesting or fawning seasons for the targeted species. Idle strips or blocks must be at least 30 feet wide.
3. When residual forage heights are increased for wildlife, the minimums for wildlife described in the appropriate NRCS conservation practice standards and specifications will be met.
4. Prescribed burning will be conducted outside of the primary nesting and fawning seasons for the targeted species.
5. All site preparation and plant establishment shall be accomplished according to the appropriate NRCS conservation practice standards and specifications.

Practices appropriate for this enhancement include the following: Forage Harvest Management (Code 511), Prescribed Burning (Code 338), Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (Code 643), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645), Vegetation Establishment (Code 723).



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Wildlife Enhancement Activity - Wildlife Friendly Haying and Grazing Management

Operation and Maintenance:

Hayland will be inspected for presence of invasive or noxious plants which may compromise wildlife use. Pest species must be controlled when encountered. The producer will follow a prescribed burn plan or other plans developed for the purpose of improving and protecting the grasslands for wildlife.

References:

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Larkin, J.L. T.G. Barnes, M. DePoy-Smith, and D.S. Maehr. 2001. A Comparison of Avian Communities Occupying Native and Exotic Grasslands in Kentucky: A Preliminary Study. *Proc. North American Prairie Conf.* 17:201-205.

Barnes, T.G., L.A. Madison, J.D. Sole, M.J. Lacki. 1995. An assessment of tall fescue dominated fields habitat quality for northern bobwhite. *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 23:231-237.

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